

October 6, 1959

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Dear George:

Happy expectations to Eva and you both.

I will, of course understand it if you now feel you will have to revise your plans as far as 1961 goes. The entire family might be quite a handful to cope with for the whole summer. But if you have a suitable place in Norway where the older children enjoy spending their summer this does suggest another possibility. In any case we will renew our welcome to you and we will of course do anything we can to facilitate your coming and making a pleasant and useful interval.

We have been very busy lately organizing the laboratory and finally moving it to its definite quarters in the Medical School Building. It would be just as well that you were not here right now since I have had to spend so much of my time out of the laboratory. I'm struggling to reverse this state of affairs and hope there is some possibility of it after Herzenberg arrives (soon) and the Department is basically set up. We still have to put up with quite a number of expedients since the building was not planned for our use of it but we are gradually working out the means of working effectively in what is basically an ideal environment.

I'm sorry you have not heard any more about the E. coli mutants resistant to fluorouracil. Peter Sneath, who has just returned to London, was working with them. We may possibly be going back to a similar problem and if we turn up any useful mutants we will consult you about it. Meanwhile, Reichard could write to Peter in London for any more information.

The scheme of working in tissue culture is of course an excellent one for the stages of mixing the cell genotypes. However, the advantage of the whole animal remains the use of histo compatibility factors. If you can mimic the cytotoxic effects in vitro then of course you could dispense with the animal host all together. Herzenberg, while still in Bethesda, has also been deeply preoccupied with the development of selective procedures for cells in culture as a basis for experimental tests of recombination. He should be arriving here in two or three weeks.

Again our best to you both.

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg